



National Transportation Safety Board

The Chairman's Corner

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Friday, March 17, 2006

2005 Annual Awards Ceremony

On March 9, 2006, the Safety Board held its 2005 Annual Awards Ceremony to honor employees for outstanding dedication and performance. The awardees were recognized for demonstrating the courage, energy, and initiative necessary to ensure that the Board fulfills its commitment to help maintain America's transportation system as the safest in the world. The Award recipients are as follows:



Chairman's Award - Bob Benzon (Office of Aviation Safety)



In his 21 years with the Safety Board, Mr. Benzon has demonstrated an incomparable ability to lead major aviation accident investigations in the United States and around the world and a willingness to share his knowledge and experience with fellow investigators. He has served as the U.S. Accredited Representative on over a dozen foreign investigations and also finds time to teach at the NTSB Basic Accident Investigation course and the Aviation Industry Training Program held at the NTSB Academy. Mr. Benzon's longstanding leadership, dedication to the Safety Board's mission, vast experience, and willingness to impart this experience to others place him in the highest echelon of aviation accident investigators worldwide.

Managing Director's Award - Pam McKenzie (Office of Administrative Law Judges)



Ms. McKenzie has been with the Board for 30 years. She is a firm and fair supervisor who has created a strong ethic of responsiveness to customer and constituent needs. She provided structured training for all of her staff well before there was an agencywide priority for fulfilling these basic management responsibilities. Ms. McKenzie has developed an enviable reputation for on time performance. Her budget requests are consistently on time and have earned the universal respect of her employees, the law judges, her peers, and the managers to whom she reports. She is a natural leader and manager who invariably perform at the highest levels.

Daniel Joseph Raskin Memorial Award

Brian Rayner, Dave Muzio, Ron Price (Office of Aviation Safety)

This award was shared by three Safety Board employees who not only exude selfless commitment, loyalty, respect, and enthusiasm for the Board but who also displayed those traits when they were called to active military duty and dispatched to serve our country in Iraq.



Mr. Ron Price has been employed as an Aerospace Engineer in the Aviation Engineering Division since 1988. Last November, Mr. Price was called to active duty as part of the Army's 159th Aviation Brigade in Iraq. The 159th is an Air Assault Brigade that is part of the 101st Airborne Division. His current mission is to transport troops, supplies, and equipment throughout the theatre of operations in Iraq in Blackhawk helicopters. He is the only employee of the Board who holds every single airman certificate and rating that can be bestowed upon a civilian pilot...except the balloon category.



Mr. Brian Rayner is a regional air safety investigator from the Northeast Regional Office in Ashburn, Virginia. He is a Chief Warrant Officer and recently served as a Chinook CH-47D helicopter pilot in the Army's B Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment. He was deployed to Iraq in May 2003 and returned in June 2004. CW4 Rayner would also occasionally fly very essential items, such as Air Force Generals and top brass. Small arms fire and missile attacks were not uncommon where he flew.



Mr. David Muzio is assigned to the Ashburn Office as its Regional Director. He also served in theater as an Army Chief Warrant Officer for "eye" Company, 185th Theater Aviation Company. CW4 Muzio flew the twin-engine C-23 Sherpa airplane, also known as the Shorts SD-330. He served in country from May 2003 to June 2004. Based in Kuwait, he flew cargo and passengers into Iraq while in a threat environment of small arms fire, surface-to-air missiles, and rocket-propelled grenades.

Joseph Trippe Nall Memorial Award**Bob Trainor (Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials)**

Mr. Trainor's work meets the highest standards of quality, and his expertise as an investigator and chemical engineer has helped the Board to address complex transportation accidents involving chemical products, including violent explosions at accident sites. He has been with the Board for 18 years and has effectively managed multiple programs for the office. He has consistently shown a willingness and an ability to shift priorities on short notice to complete or advance a report through the development process on some of the Board's most difficult investigations.

Dr. John K. Lauber Award**Loren Groff & Jana Price (Office of Research and Engineering)**

Dr. Groff and Dr. Price co-managed a study of general aviation accidents that occurred in instrument or marginal visual meteorological conditions. The study involved a great deal of planning and their teamwork has been outstanding. They contacted over 200 general aviation pilots and collected data on weather, pilot experience, aircraft equipment, and situational demands. The data collection required a serious commitment of personal time as well. The study resulted in six new recommendations being issued to the Federal Aviation Administration.

**Jim Henderson (Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials)**

Throughout his 15 years at the Board, Mr. Henderson has demonstrated his expertise in hazardous material safety. Because of his technical knowledge and dedication, important safety issues were identified, documented, and addressed. His work on resolving hazardous material issues has helped to expedite many of the Board's most complex investigations.

Regional Employee Award**Nicole Charnon (Office of Aviation Safety)**

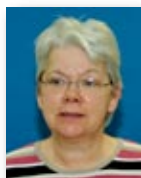
Assigned to Regional Operations, Ms. Charnon has consistently completed her assigned projects well ahead of schedule. The investigations she leads are accomplished in a thorough and professional manner with a high degree of insight, organizational ability, and investigative skill that is recognized not only by her peers but by many other government and industry organizations.

**Richard Hipksind (Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Material)**

Mr. Hipksind is a Senior Rail Investigator who has provided exceptional support on some of the Board's most difficult railroad investigations in the past year. He has in-depth knowledge of track engineering and maintenance disciplines and a well-rounded knowledge of all railroad related subject matter. His superb technical knowledge and dedication to transportation safety have enabled him to maintain a heavy workload and to complete many reports during the past year.

Employee Peer Award - Antion Downs (Office of Administration)

The expertise Mr. Downs has with the audiovisual equipment in the Boardroom keeps board meetings and other events running as planned. He provides technical assistance or training to those who need help in using the presentation equipment and microphones. Mr. Downs is able to quickly and professionally resolve issues that arise with minimal interruption to meetings.

Distinguished Service Award for Administrative Support**Jan Delorge (Office of Research and Engineering)**

Ms. Delorge has been with the Board for 18 years and has performed her duties in an excellent manner. She has repeatedly shown a willingness and enthusiasm to take on an assortment of work assignments and to assist individual employees, especially in a last minute crunch. She maintains a professional work attitude and serves as a stabilizing factor to her coworkers.

Special Recognition Awards

The following special recognition awards were given to employees for extraordinary achievement, service, act, or contribution that is not defined in the criteria for other awards and is not limited to Safety Board functions or duties.



African Investigations

Dennis Jones- AS
Alexander Lemishko -AS
Paul Sledzik- SRC/TDA
Ken Suydam- SRC/TDA

Andrew J. Barberi Accident Investigation

Robert Ford- MS	Luke Schiada- AS	
Robbie Jones- MS	Brian Fiffick- SRC/TDA	
William Woody- MS	Teodor Lopatkiewicz- SRC/PA	Tom Roth-Roffy-MS
Barry Strauch- MS	Keith Holloway- SRC/PA	Robert Henry-MS
Brian Curtis- MS	Paul Schlamm- SRC/PA	James Scheffer-MS
Morgan Turrell- MS	Charlotte Cox- MS	Jana Price- RE
Doug Brazy- RE	Patricia Barnes- MS	Mitchell Garber- RE
Chris Julius- GC	Mariette Burer- MS	William Love-GC
Robert Barlett-HS		Christy Spangler-CIO
		Vince Harris- CIO

Graniteville, South Carolina Investigation

Jim Southworth- RPH	Russell Quimby- RPH	
Robert Trainor- RPH	James Ritter- RPH	
James Henderson- RPH	Brian Fiffick- SRC/TDA	Crystal Thomas- RPH
Lawson Narvell- RPH	Paul Sledzik- SRC/TDA	James Remines- RPH
Richard Downs- RPH	Keith Holloway- SRC/PA	Frank Zakar- RE
Ruben Payan- RPH	Cyril Gura- RPH	James Wildey- RE
Russell Gober- RPH	Thomas Lasseigne- RPH	Gina John- CIO
		Vince Harris- CIO
		Kelley Romeo- CIO

Katrina and Rita Hurricane Response Efforts

Teodor Lopatkiewicz- SRC/PA	Lauren Peduzzi- SRC/PA
Sharon Bryson- SRC/TDA	Nancy Mason- SRC/TDA
Brian Fiffick- SRC/TDA	Paul Sledzik- SRC//TDA
Ken Suydam- SRC/TDA	Erik Grosf- SRC/TDA
Donald Chupp- ACD	

I would like to congratulate all of the award recipients for their tireless efforts in helping to make the Safety Board a better place to work! I would like to express special thanks to the Office of Administration, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, Ted Lopatkiewicz in Public Affairs, and Jay Kivowitz in the Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations for their contributions in making the 2005 Agency Awards Ceremony a success.

Sincerely,
Mark V. Rosenker
Acting Chairman